

AN UPDATE CONCERNING EUROPE JULY 2022 SEMIANNUAL TRAINING

TRAINING FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION

We are so thankful to the Lord that through the giving, prayer, and labor of many saints, Woodland Camp, an event center just outside of London, UK, is now ready to begin hosting events. With a variety of cabins for sleeping, a dining hall, a meeting hall, and 17 acres of woodland, it is ideal for carrying out weekend and one-week trainings for groups of up to 120 saints and new contacts from around Europe. Over the last year we have held several test events with young people, family groups, and brothers' trainings, but from this summer, we will begin its full use, starting with a series of weekend trainings.

In the future we will construct a larger meeting hall and dining facility as well as another cluster of sleeping cabins, bringing our capacity closer to 300. However, for now the facility at Woodland Camp is perfectly adequate for the present need, and we feel that it is time to turn our attention to the enlargement of the facilities for the Full-time Training in London (FTTL).

In fellowship with Brother Lee, FTTL began in the autumn term of 1997. Having the full-time training conducted in the English language has allowed young people throughout this multilingual continent to come and blend together. It was initially carried out in a small facility in West London, followed by a larger facility to the southwest of London but eventually, it settled at Bower House in Northeast London, in August 2005, when the saints in the Lord's recovery from around the earth purchased it for this purpose.

Since that time, Bower House has been a delightful setting for the training. Over 350 trainees have graduated from FTTL with many part-time trainees also coming for at least one term. These trainees have represented 54 countries, and many have gone on to serve as job-keeping or job-dropping full-timers throughout Europe. The original manor house, dating from 1729, has provided the kitchen and dining facility as well as offices and study areas. The accommodation block and classrooms built by Ford Motor Company in the 1970s have provided the main classrooms as well as sleeping accommodation, which are supplemented by houses in the local neighborhood. The site has also benefited from the addition of a marquee with a seating capacity of 700 where we have held FTTL graduations and large blending meetings. This marquee is also where thousands of Bibles have been packed and sent out across Europe.

However, the need for enlarged facilities for the training center in Europe is now growing as the Lord's move in Europe advances. Country by country and city by city, the Lord is gaining this continent and raising up young people from among the children of the saints and from the college campuses. The free Recovery Versions are being sown throughout the continent, and the world situation is softening the hearts of the people and turning them to the Lord. The fields are white, and the need is greater than ever for a group of trained saints, constituted with the riches in the Word and in the ministry to be raised up and thrust out.

At the same time, the Lord has provided FTTL with a way to sponsor a two-year visa that allows young people from Europe and beyond to attend the training. This new visa began in August 2021, and already 20 trainees from 10 countries have been sponsored to attend the full-time training.

Therefore, we need to begin preparing an enlarged training facility to receive these ones. We believe the Lord will bless the training with increase term by term, and we feel that it is our responsibility to prepare a facility to match this increase.

Shortly after purchasing Bower House in 2005, the architectural and engineering saints began working on plans to demolish the 1970s Ford buildings and replace them with a new training center, which would include meeting, dining, and kitchen facilities in one building. This has not been simple because the training center includes an 18th century manor house that is the most historically valuable building

in this part of London. Moreover, it sits within a conservation area and in a part of London that is protected to preserve the countryside. Therefore, as stewards of such a significant site, the goal was to build something modern and functional, but which would also enhance and blend seamlessly into this English property's specific history and setting.

In 2016 the planning application to enlarge the training center was accepted, and we received approval to construct a training center capable of hosting up to 800 people in one hall. This main hall can be divided into three classrooms. The training center will also have dining and kitchen facilities and will be surrounded by delightful gardens. Since this permission was granted, we were able to purchase the neighboring farm, providing us with more land and a new road entrance to the facility, and we are working further with the council to make improvements to the original design. Fully preparing the engineering drawings and other necessary permissions, as well as preparing the site for construction will take us one more year, and we have set a target of beginning construction of the new facility in September 2023.

At that time the existing classrooms will be demolished, the much beloved marquee will be moved, and FTTL will make its new temporary home in the manor house. Most of the Bower House site, including the accommodation block, will still be accessible to the training.

In the next semiannual training report in December, we hope to bring you more detailed information regarding the final plan for the building, the approximate cost, and an estimate of the time it will take to build it. We will also have more information about how you can come to serve in the construction project. Currently however, our heart is to present this burden and to open it in a fresh way to the Lord's recovery for your prayer and fellowship. May the Lord bless and strengthen the Full-time Training in London and continue to raise up an army for His move in Europe.

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION AND VISITATION

Bibles for Europe continues to distribute the New Testament Recovery Version to many countries throughout Europe. We are currently distributing the Recovery Version in English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. In addition, we are now distributing the Russian Recovery Version in Eastern Europe. We have recently started distributing the Portuguese Recovery Version in Portugal both on the Internet and by physical distribution at Bible tables near universities. Currently, over 300 Bibles are going out in Portugal each month from online orders. As has been the case everywhere in Europe, the Portuguese Recovery Version is popular and very well received. We believe this is because it is the ministry of the age! As Brother Lee said:

I consider the footnotes that we have published in the Recovery Version as the aggregate of the proper understanding of the New Testament. (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 35)

In 2021 a shipment of 250,000 Bibles was printed through the giving of saints. There is a great need for these Bibles to be distributed throughout Europe both through online distribution and through the distribution by the saints at Bible tables in their neighborhoods. Brother Lee said:

We do not need to do that much. We just need to go out with a pure heart, without anything to ourselves but all things to Him. Just go out with all the truths and the Recovery Version to read to people. I assure you that you will catch someone every week. (*Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, p. 126)

Following the distribution, there is the need to visit the Bible recipients with personal, face-to-face, one-on-one contact. Brother Lee said:

For gospel preaching, for feeding the lambs, and for perfecting the saints—the first three steps of the God-ordained way—the very unique need is to visit people. To visit people is to go to them and stay with them. You have to speak with them face to face. If you were to visit someone every week for ten minutes, you could surely gain that person in a year. The biblical

way for us to gain people is to visit them, to spend time with them face to face. (*Elders' Training, Book 11: The Eldership and the God-ordained Way* (3), p. 79)

During the restrictions of the recent pandemic, we began in several places to take the way of visiting the Bible recipients through the phone and through Zoom. Now that restrictions are easing, we are visiting these ones by going to their homes to bring them additional ministry books as a gift and to let them know that we live nearby. This labor is only just beginning, but we already sense that we are touching something very much in the Lord's heart as we follow His pattern to go and visit.

Finally, after distributing the Bibles and visiting the recipients, we are burdened to open our homes to invite, receive, cherish, and nourish these ones. Brother Lee fellowshiped regarding the tremendous task of motivating the saints, no matter what their situation, to open their homes for the gospel. He said:

As long as we are willing to open our homes, prepare the best refreshments, and invite our relatives and friends to come, they surely will be saved. This is the best way to preach the gospel. I hope that from now on, every saint would open his home for the preaching of the gospel, and every saint's home would be a gospel station for the preaching of the gospel once a week or at least once every two weeks. (*Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery*, p. 129)

Please pray that the saints would rise up to cooperate with the Lord of the harvest and that the Lord could thrust out workers to meet this need to distribute the Recovery Version of the New Testament throughout Europe, to visit the Bible recipients, and to open their homes to cherish and nourish these contacts with the riches in the Word and in the ministry.

The Lord's Move in French-speaking European Countries through Bible Distribution and Bible Studies

In 2020 we noticed a significant increase in requests for the New Testament Recovery Version in French-speaking Europe, which includes France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Luxembourg. Our current statistics show that from January 2020 until May 2022, we have received 33,970 orders for the New Testament in French. In order to contact and shepherd these seeking ones, the serving saints began to fellowship with Amana Trust about implementing the same kind of follow-up that they have developed in London through individual Bible studies with the Bible recipients.

Currently, in French-speaking Europe, approximately 70 persons are regularly joining our online meetings and corporate Bible studies or individual Bible studies with the volunteer saints. This group of 65 volunteer saints from nine localities come together every two weeks to pray and coordinate, pursuing related ministry portions and sharing with one another their experience of shepherding the contacts. This has brought about a great deal of blending and coordination among the French-speaking churches. A group of 14 serving saints from four localities in France also meet online four times a week for prayer and coordination, seeking together the Lord's leading to go on in this service. We can testify that when we pray and cooperate with the Lord, our prayer paves the way for His work and allows the Lord to work in a way that is above all that we ask or think.

In October 2021 a group of seeking saints in Metz, a city in northeast France, contacted us through Rhema, and they began joining our church meetings on Zoom and were attracted by the rich supply of God's Word and the practices of the church life. As we were praying and considering how to care for this group of saints, more and more seeking ones from this region of France were contacted by saints of different localities, some in very unexpected ways; for example, one of them met a sister in Lyon during a hiking trip and another one was the Airbnb host for some saints from Dieppe during their vacation. These believers are now meeting regularly with us and are enjoying blending with different localities, both online and through visitations. Some also participated in this year's French-speaking conference in Paris. These believers are burdened for their Christian friends and bringing

them to our meetings. It seems that the Lord is moving in a particular way to raise up His testimony in the Grand Est region. Praise Him for what He is doing in northeast France!

Prayer burdens:

Please pray that the Lord would raise up a strong testimony for Himself in Metz as well as in the entire northeast France and that it will be a pattern that could be duplicated in many other localities for the Lord's move in French-speaking Europe.

SIX KEY CITIES REPORTS

Please visit amanatrust.org.uk/page/reports for updated reports and information on the six key cities for emigration.

EVENTS IN EUROPE IN AUTUMN 2022

Over the spring and summer of 2022 we have been so encouraged to again meet face to face in meetings, trainings, and conferences across Europe, and this autumn we will greatly increase our meeting and blending.

The saints in both Zurich and Lisbon plan to hold their first Lord's table meetings and to invite the saints to come and enjoy this time with them.

This year will also see the resumption of the Autumn European International Blending Conference. This conference has been held in a small village called Baarlo, located in the southeast of the Netherlands, since 2011. Each year we have been able to rent a conference center there, which has grown and enlarged with us to wonderfully meet the developing need of the churches in Europe. The time there includes a mid-week brothers' training, followed by a weekend conference. The brothers' time will begin on October 25, and the conference will conclude on October 30.

We would like to warmly invite the saints throughout the Lord's recovery to join us for that time. It would also be wonderful if the saints could include this in a longer blending trip to Europe, particularly those with a burden to visit the six key cities for emigration. The venue in Baarlo is less than an hour by car from Eindhoven Airport in the Netherlands, and two airports in Germany—Weeze and Düsseldorf. Flights around Europe are quick and relatively inexpensive. For example, a one-hour flight from Eindhoven will bring you to London Stansted Airport, which is a 30-minute drive from Woodland Camp.

We will publish more information in the coming months with all these dates and blending opportunities. In the meantime, please put the dates for the blending conference in Baarlo (October 25-30) into your schedule and consider also if you could spend more time before and after to blend with the churches in Europe.

More information and updates can be found at amanatrust.org.uk/page/reports.

WORKS CITED

- Lee, Witness. *Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, p. 126. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 1986.
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